



Fasig-Tipton

Saratoga Selected Yearling Sale Analysis

The Fasig-Tipton Saratoga selected yearling sale is the No. 1 ranked yearling sale in America as measured by the most important indicators of racetrack quality – percentage of stakes winners, percentage of graded stakes winners and percentage of Grade or Group 1 winners.

According to the stats published by The Blood-Horse's MarketWatch (June 2011), Saratoga graduates also led all yearling sales in percentage of stakes horses, average earnings per horse and median earnings per horse. Thirty-three sales, including all the major North American auctions at which yearlings are offered, were included in the study, which covered sale years 2006-2008.

The statistics should come as no surprise. Saratoga is a boutique auction, featuring the most highly selected group of yearlings in America.

"It's clearly been the premier yearling sale in America for almost 100 years now, and it has a tradition and reputation of providing excellent sale results for buyers and sellers alike," said Fasig-Tipton President Boyd T. Browning Jr. "Sellers can bring their best horses and know there will be a great group of buyers present, domestically and internationally. Buyers go to Saratoga knowing it will have the best selection of yearlings available anywhere."

The Best of the Best

The Saratoga sale features top sires, good female families, and many of the very best physical conformation specimens from the

foal crop. Fasig-Tipton's inspection team applies stringent standards to the Saratoga catalogue.

"We would like to think it's the finest select yearling sale that there is in America," said William E. Graves, Fasig-Tipton's vice president of recruiting and selections. "We've been very proud of the product we've offered up there. Saratoga is limited to 'x' amount of space, and that keeps the sale fairly small as far as numbers are concerned, so the quality has to be very high. It is a very unique atmosphere, and it takes place during the historic Saratoga meeting."

Fasig-Tipton's mission to present the very best of each yearling crop at Saratoga was evident in the results again in 2011. The sale produced the top priced yearling of the year by 17 sires (Bluegrass Cat, Malibu Moon, Kitten's Joy, Medaglia d'Oro, Bernardini, Giant's Causeway, Dixie Union, Broken Vow, Touch Gold, Macho Uno, Mineshaft, Midnight Lute, Sky Mesa, Street Boss, Birdstone, Rockport Harbor, Bellamy Road); the top-priced colt of the year by five (Unbridled's Song, Indian Charlie, Curlin, Candy Ride, Rock Hard Ten); and the top priced filly of the year by one more (Speightstown). Those 23 yearlings were purchased by 20 different buyers.

Buyers have found quality at all price levels of the Saratoga sale. 2012 Belmont Stakes winner Union Rags, whose victories also include the 2011 Champagne Stakes (Grade 1) and the 2012 Fasig-Tipton Fountain of Youth Stakes (Grade 2), sold for \$145,000 at the 2010 Saratoga sale.

Unmatched Atmosphere: The Saratoga Experience

Browning said the one-of-a-kind atmosphere of Saratoga in August contributes to the success of the sale.

"You've got literally the best horses, owners and trainers in the world — an unbelievable quality of racing day in and day out," Browning said. "Saratoga is a place people are happy to be, and it epitomizes and symbolizes everything that is right in our industry. It's a chance to compete with the best at the highest level, in an atmosphere where a shared love of horses and racing manifests themselves like no other place."

Saratoga will feature record average daily purses of \$930,000 in 2012 (a 39% increase), according to the New York Racing Association. The stakes schedule for the 40-day meeting is \$13.35-million.

"Fortunately for us, we're facing an unbelievable opportunity with New York racing that will be showcased and highlighted at Saratoga with significant purse increases," Browning said. "It is going to create an atmosphere and energy unlike anything we've seen in many years."

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The Blood-Horse's MarketWatch



SARATOGA GRADUATE UNION RAGS